

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 AID-20 PC-10 IO-14 SCCT-02 NIC-01

EUR-25 NEA-10 SY-10 OPR-02 A-01 OC-06 EB-11 FAA-00

/133 W

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O 021600Z MAR 74 ZFF-1

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2521

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

DIRNSA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0128

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION

REF: ASMARA 0127

1. CONGEN RECEIVED REPORT ABOUT 1800 LOCAL (1500Z) THAT ARMY AND AIR FORCE OFFICERS WHO HAD BEEN UNDER CONFINEMENT WERE BEING RELEASED, THAT REBEL LEADERS WERE RETURNING TO THEIR BARRACKS ALONG WITH TROOPS THEY HAD DEPLOYED, AND THAT REBEL LEADERS HAD ANNOUNCED THAT COMMAND FUNCTION WAS BEING RETURNED TO CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES, WITH MAJOR GENERAL SEYOUM NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMAND OF SECOND DIVISION, AND WITH GOV GEN (LTG) DEBBEBE RESTORED TO POWER AS CONSTITUTED CIVIL AUTHORITY.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT TELCONS WITH MG SEYOUM AND WITH MIL AIDE TO GOV GEN, THEY CONFIRMED ABOVE REPORT. BOTH SAID SITUATION WOULD BE BACK TO NORMAL BY TOMORROW. BOTH
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SAID AIRPORT WOULD BE OPEN TO REGULARLY SCHEDULED FLIGHTS

BY TOMORROW OR MONDAY. BOTH SEEMED MORE RELAXED OVER TELEPHONE THAN THEY HAD BEEN IN CONVERSATIONS DURING PAST FIVE DAYS, AND MORE SELF-ASSURED.

3. OTHER REPORTS INDICATE THAT TROOPS IN TOWN ARE RETURNING TO BARRACKS, AND THAT POLICE ARE RESUMING NORMAL PATROL AND GUARD FUNCTIONS.

4. WHILE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO BELIEVE WHAT MAY BE SAID BY OTHERS OVER TELEPHONE, SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN UNDER CONSTRAINT AND INHIBITION, IT APPEARS THAT IN ABSENCE OF ANY FURTHER COMPLICATION THAT COULD DEVELOP, REBEL COMMAND AT ASMARA HAS BEEN DISSOLVED AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, AND THAT COMMAND FUNCTION AND POLITICAL SITUATION ARE RETURNING TO NORMAL.

RABIDA

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30 JUN 2005

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